Rhodora

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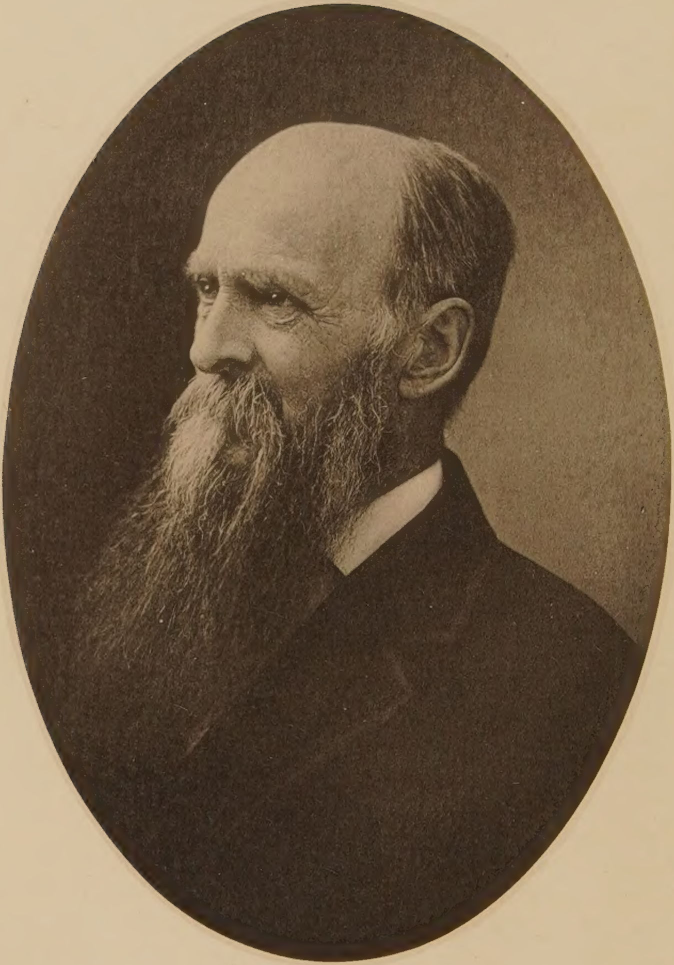

Yours faithfully,
C. G. Pringle.

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CYRUS GUERNSEY PRINGLE.

EZRA BRAINERD.

(With portrait.)

IN the death of Cyrus Guernsey Pringle, on the 25th of last May, botanical Science lost a collector whose record is unrivalled. We may safely estimate that in his thirty-five years of field work he distributed to the various herbaria of the world over 500,000 specimens, embracing some 20,000 species, about 12 per cent of which were new to science. And his work was superior in quality as well as in quantity, his specimens being carefully and judiciously selected, and always neatly prepared. His dried plants have been often held up as models for young collectors, and largely through his good example the quality of herbarium material has been everywhere greatly improved during the last thirty years.

Mr. Pringle[1] was born in East Charlotte, Vermont, May 6, 1838. On his father's side his ancestry was Scotch Presbyterian; his maternal grandfather, Asa Harris, was of Puritan stock. Cyrus G. Pringle was bred to the simple but intellectual life of the old New England farmer; he was well schooled at Hinesburg, Vermont, and at Stanbridge, Quebec, and nearly ready for college, when the death of an older brother compelled him to aid his widowed mother in the management of the farm.

In early manhood Mr. Pringle became deeply interested in the religious and ethical doctrines of the Friends, of whom there were many devoted disciples in that part of Vermont. Their emphasis on the supremacy of conscience, and their uncompromising opposition to war and all personal violence toward a fellow man found a congenial soil in the natural temperament of Mr. Pringle, and he joined the Society of Friends. This action is perhaps to be associated with his interest in a young woman, who taught school in his neighborhood and was a talented speaker in the meetings of the Friends. To this lady, Almira L. Greene of Starksboro, Vermont, he was married February 25, 1863.

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[1] This surname is written 'Prindle' by members of the family now living. Mr. C. G. Pringle claimed to be restoring the ancestral form of the name.

On the 13th of July following, Mr. Pringle and two other Quakers of Charlotte were drafted for service in the Civil War. He refused to permit his uncle, Capt. Hewett, to pay the $300 that would release him, regarding it as a selfish compromise with principle. In spite of all appeals to those in authority, the three men were carried in July to the camp for conscripts on Long Island in Boston Harbor, and three weeks later transported to Culpepper, Virginia. In both camps they were subjected to most barbarous treatment. Among Mr. Pringle's papers has been found a journal that he wrote during this terrible experience. His story fills 120 pages of commercial note-paper, and is of intense interest, not only as an episode of the Civil War, but as a psychological study. The effort was made to induce him to serve in the hospitals instead of on the field, and some leaders of the Society of Friends approved of this compromise; not so Mr. Pringle. He debated in his own soul the question for days, earnestly praying for the guidance of the Divine Spirit; he visited the hospital to see what the service would be; then he put on record his final decision: "No Friend, who is really such, desiring to keep himself clear of complicity with this system of war and to bear a perfect testimony against it, can lawfully perform service in the hospitals of the army in lieu of bearing arms."

The brutal punishments resorted to to compel the men to serve are a disgrace to our military history. The men were kept for days in the guard house with the vilest of the conscripts — thieves, gamblers, and men crazed by drink: they were forced to march with guns strapped to their backs. On October 3d Mr. Pringle was tied prone on the ground with cords about his wrists and ankles, in the form of the letter X. Thus he was left for hours, until "so weak he could hardly walk or perform any mental exertion." The corporal urged him to give up, or worse would follow; even death was threatened if he did not submit. Mr. Pringle's only reply was "it can but give me pain to be asked or required to do anything I believe to be wrong." His tormentors were amazed that he showed so little resentment — that he "was n't the least bit ugly." With a will as unconquerable as that of Prometheus he simply endured, and was ready to endure even unto death.

When the Secretary of War learned of the case, he ordered the three incorrigibles sent to Washington. They were there treated with marked consideration. Secretary Stanton told them that only his oath of office stood in the way of his giving them a discharge; he could only parole them indefinitely. But public discussion was so heated that this had to be deferred for a few weeks, and the men were sent to Douglas hospital to do merely nominal service. Even this life with all its freedom was irksome; he "longed to be released, if it be by imprisonment;" his physical strength began to give way, and for two weeks he was most of the time confined to the bed. On the 6th of November the Commissioner of Agriculture, Isaac Newton, who had taken a deep interest in the Quaker conscripts, presented their case to President Lincoln at the White House. Moved to sympathy he exclaimed to Newton, "I want you to go and tell Stanton that it is my wish all those young men be sent home at once." A little later, while Newton at the War Department was urging the Secretary to consent to the parole, the President entered. "It is my urgent wish," said he. The Secretary yielded, the order for the parole was given, and the men started that afternoon for New York.

The journal concludes as follows: "Rising from my sick bed to undertake this journey, which lasted through the night, its fatigues overcame me; and upon my arrival in New York I was seized with delirium, from which I recovered only after many weeks, through the mercy and favor of Him who in all this trial had been our guide and strength and comfort."

In the period between 1864 and 1880 Mr. Pringle was largely engaged in the culture and breeding of plants. He had growing at one time over a hundred species and varieties of *Iris* and nearly all known species of *Lilium*. He had a hospital for diseased bulbs, that were sent him by florists to be cured by his surgery in the healthful climate of Vermont. But his most successful work was the production, through hybridization, of improved varieties of wheat, oats, grapes, and potatoes. A recent writer in Science states that "his labors in this field have added many millions to the profits of the American farmer."[1]

The latter half of these sixteen years Mr. Pringle became more and more engaged in collecting rare native plants both for dealers at home and abroad, and for several distinguished botanists such as Davenport, Tuckerman and Gray. He thus became deeply interested in the study of the flora of Vermont. In 1876 he discovered the botanical treasures of Smugglers' Notch and re-explored the cliffs of Willoughby previously visited by Alphonso Wood. Of his joy and success in these labors he gave a delightful account in a paper before the Vermont Botanical Club in February 1897.[2] As a sample of his charming style, we quote one of the closing paragraphs:

"It were going beyond the limits of my subject to tell of extended trips made during these years to the White Mountains, to join there the Faxons, till we became as familiar with those tempest-swept heights as with our native fields; or to tell of boat journeys, and the ample fruits of such, made in three successive years to the cold fir-set shores of the Lower St. Lawrence, to the Saguenay low between its palisades of giant cliffs, and through the lone lakes and unbroken forests of the St. Francis to the St. John of northern Maine; — experiences calculated to fill one with large thoughts, to raise him above fear, and to make the modern world of conventions and fads show paltry."

But circumstances were opening the way for wider work in remoter fields. In February 1872 Mrs. Pringle separated from her husband. Only a few words need be said of this painful event in his life. The wife was zealous to engage in 'evangelistic work,' going from place to place, and persistently urged her husband to engage in the work with her. But believing that he had neither taste nor talent for it, he as persistently refused. She was, moreover, in poor health, and was persuaded that it would be better for her to live with her own mother than with her husband's mother. A formal divorce was obtained October 16, 1877, the wife receiving $2,000 alimony and the custody of their only child, now Mrs. Annie R. Wright.

In the autumn of 1880 Mr. Pringle made his first trip to the Pacific slope. He was charged with three commissions: (1) as agent for the United States Census Department, to explore the forests of that region and to collect data for the final report; (2) as botanical collector for the American Museum of Natural History, to secure wood specimens to complete the famous Jesup Collection; (3) to make general collections under the direction of Dr. Asa Gray for a better knowledge of the flora of the southwestern United States. He was permitted to secure duplicate specimens when practicable, and their sale helped to defray the expenses of the trip. The printed list of plants, offered for general distribution on his return in 1881, contained about 430 species, all but 62 from Arizona.

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[1] We are pleased to learn that this pioneer work of Mr. Pringle in plant-breeding is to be written up by Prof. Burns of the University of Vermont.

[2] This paper was published in full in the Bulletin of the Torrey Club **24**: 350. July 1897.

This general work was continued for four years, the collection for 1882 being still larger and consisting mostly of the plants of California. The summer of that year he made a long and interesting journey with mules into the mountains of Lower California to secure a specimen of the trunk of *Pinus Parryana*, a trip on which Dr. Parry was his guide and companion. In 1884 he again for a short distance crossed the Mexican borders into Sonora, and his Arizona sets of 683 species for that year have an aspect decidedly Mexican.

During all these years Dr. Gray was Mr. Pringle's ardent friend and helper. He styled him "the prince of collectors." He appreciated also his keenness of observation, in the detection of hybrids in *Quercus* and *Dentaria*, in discovering leaf-propagation in the Lake Cress (*Radicula aquatica*), in noting the presence of cleistogamous flowers in *Dalibarda repens*, the first known instance in *Rosaceae*, and in the discovery that there were two sorts of butternut trees, the one sort having *staminate* flowers two weeks earlier than pistillate, the other sort having *pistillate* flowers two weeks earlier than staminate, both sorts thus incapable of self-fertilization, but well adapted for reciprocal fertilization. Dr. Gray aided Mr. Pringle materially in securing subscriptions for his sets from European herbaria, and in advancing money for needful expenses. Mrs. Gray also loaned him sums amounting to about a thousand dollars, which after Dr. Gray's death she preferred to have him retain and use in the further prosecution of the work to which her husband had been so long devoted. Near the close of her life she asked Mr. Pringle to call, and destroyed in his presence the notes that he had given her.

Dr. Gray at first kept Mr. Pringle collecting in the arid regions north of Mexico, as the latter country was not included in his Synoptical Flora of North America. But from the high peaks along its northern border the great collector had often gazed with wondering eyes upon the vast, largely unexplored region to the south. In an unfinished paper entitled, "On Mexican Trails," he wrote "It was from the mountains of Southern Arizona, the Santa Rita and other mountains, in the early months of 1881, that I first beheld Mexican territory, the rugged heights of Northern Sonora receding crest upon crest in paler and paler blue beneath the staring southern sky,— a land of mystery and of fear." At last in 1885 Dr. Gray was content with Mr. Pringle's work in the southwestern United States, and arranged for him to enter upon the botanical Conquest of Mexico — a labor to which the remaining twenty-six years of his life were zealously devoted. By special arrangement he was made botanical collector for the Gray Herbarium, and served in that capacity not only till the death of Dr. Gray in 1888, but till the death of Dr. Watson in 1892. Under the administration of Dr. Robinson, in 1893 he was by act of the Corporation appointed Collector on the botanical staff of Harvard University, and held that office till the day of his death.

Of the great work that he accomplished for the botany of Mexico we may not here speak in detail. He was held in the highest esteem by the scientific and civil authorities of that nation, and mounted sets of his collections were from year to year purchased by the government. Duplicates have gone into all the great herbaria of the world, and his name will ever be illustrious in the history of Mexican Botany.

From the beginning of his field work in botany, Mr. Pringle took great pride in his private herbarium. Into this he always put any plant of his own collecting that was especially choice or rare; and from the first, he improved opportunities to obtain from other collectors, by purchase or exchange, specimens of unrepresented species. In 1902 his herbarium contained about 50,000 specimens, filling several rooms in the old brick farm-house — his birthplace — in East Charlotte. That year it was removed to commodious fire-proof quarters in the Williams Science Hall at Burlington. Arrangements were made by which it became the property of the University of Vermont, but to be under his charge and control during the remainder of his life. In the nine years that have since passed, Mr. Pringle has labored with increasing zeal for the growth of the herbarium, securing large collections of plants from all parts of the world. During the last year of his life he added over 20,000 specimens, and the total number is now said to be about 155,000. No nobler monument can be erected to his memory than the one he has himself built in 'The Pringle Herbarium.'

Aside from his professional career, Mr. Pringle's personal character was unusually striking and attractive. He was so retiring that many of his acquaintances failed to understand him. His diffidence and shyness seemed to grow upon him till the last, as he became more and more absorbed in his work of collecting, and in his ambition to build up a great herbarium. To Mr. C. R. Orcutt, who had travelled with him in Mexico, and in recent years wrote him for data concerning his life, he replied, "I decided that it was hardly possible for me to comply with your request. It would be too painful to write my autobiography. Shyness has become habitual with me. Besides my aversion to publicity, I am too busy to write much." His great modesty is shown in the fact, that though he collected thousands of new species, and often confidently recognized them as new, he was never disposed to publish a single species on his own authority.

Mr. Pringle always led the 'simple life,' but naturally, without affectation. Epicurean pleasures never tempted him; he was as innocent of them as a child. He had no use for tea, coffee, or alcoholic beverages. After the death of his mother he prepared his own meals, whether in Mexico or Vermont, his diet consisting chiefly of bread, milk, eggs, cheese, and fruit. His dress he chose with regard to comfort and durability, rather than with regard to fashion. But he was not lacking in esthetic taste; neatness and cleanliness he ranked among the virtues. Nothing gave him more joy than a beautiful landscape, or a plant in full bloom or in ideal fruitage. In the preparation and mounting of a botanical specimen he was as much an artist as a scientist. But the fashions and conventionalities of social life he did not understand, nor care to understand.

Mr. Pringle was an extremely conscientious man. His private journal during his three months of torture in the army reveals very clearly the working of a deeply religious mind, keenly sensitive to the claims of duty, and backed up by an indomitable will. In later life his religious sentiments were less apparent; but his sense of honor was always most delicate, and his conduct towards his fellowmen thoroughly upright and free from all guile.

But the greatest charm in Mr. Pringle's character was in his kindliness of heart. He was a man of strong sympathy, not simply for one in trouble, but for one on whom fortune had smiled. In doing a favor for an acquaintance he always seemed to find sincere pleasure, though he rarely said so. Mr. Orcutt writes, "Mr. Pringle carried consideration for others almost to an extreme (were this truly possible); and I have seen him select the heavier burden and give his peon servant the lighter one to carry." Scores of similar instances might be cited. During the last ten years of his life he spent thousands of dollars out of his small estate to help, now a relative, now a friend, now a former assistant in what seemed to be a serious emergency. In this he was sometimes accused of acting with too little regard for self-interest. But if he failed in worldly prudence, he lived more closely than most men to the precepts of the Sermon on the Mount. These failings, if they were failings, leaned to virtue's side. If his acts of generosity at times betrayed faults of judgment, they were faults for which his friends loved him none the less dearly.

REPORTS ON THE FLORA OF THE BOSTON DISTRICT,—XII.

Unusually full and detailed information in regard to the genus Carex is in the hands of the Committee. Collections seem to have been very numerous within our areas, and there are fewer gaps in distribution than in any previous report. The list is based on the Gray Herbarium, the herbaria of the New England Botanical Club, Boston Society of Natural History, Peabody Academy of Science at Salem, and Wellesley College; also Dr. C. W. Swan's collection (now at Yale University), and the personal herbaria of C. F. Batchelder, Judge J. R. Churchill, Walter Deane, F. F. Forbes, Dr. G. G. Kennedy, C. H. Knowlton, and R. A. Ware. The files of Rhodora and the local floras covering the area have been carefully consulted for additional records. Doubtful reports have been verified, or quoted with their authority where verification has been impossible.

CYPERACEAE.

CAREX, A TO C.

C. ACUTIFORMIS Ehrh. Salt marsh by Old Colony R. R. at Savin Hill, Dorchester, from 1865 (*Wm. Boott*) to 1888 (*E. & C. E. Faxon*). Station now extinct (*J. R. Churchill*).

C. aestivalis M. A. Curtis. Lexington (*Wm. Boott*, July 2, 1876).

C. alata Torr. Moist fields, swamps and wet woods. Not reported from extreme west and south; freely distributed elsewhere in district.

C. albolutescens Schwein. Wet or dry soil; Wilmington, Stoneham, Medford, Malden, Winchester, Framingham, Needham, Westwood, Canton, Milton, Hull. The well marked form, *C. albolutescens*, var. *cumulata* Bailey, was found in Medford and Malden between July 29, 1853 and July 25, 1863, by Wm. Boott.

C. aquatilis Wahlenb. Georgetown (*Mrs. C. N. S. Horner*); Concord (*H. D. Thoreau*, Dame & Collins, Fl. Middlesex Co. 116, 1888).

C. arctata Boott. Blue Hill, Milton (*G. G. Kennedy*, May 31, 1899); woods, Purgatory Swamp, Westwood, common (*J. R. Churchill*, June 11, 1892); Bellingham (*G. G. Kennedy*, Aug. 24, 1894). "Medford (C. E. Perkins); Malden (Wm. Boott)," according to Dame & Collins, Fl. Middlesex Co. 117, 1888.

C. aurea Nutt. Boggy meadow, Bradford [Haverhill] (*J. A. Cushman*, June 10, 1908); Salem Great Pastures, swampy place between Powderhouse Lane and mill-pond, scarce (*J. Robinson*, June 17, 1879); Cambridge near Mr. Norton's, no date, "a Cambridge specimen, dedit Greene" (on label in Thomas Nuttall's handwriting), specimen in Gray Herb.

C. Bicknellii Britton. Usually in dry soil; reported from nine stations in east-central portion, doubtless throughout in suitable soil.

C. bromoides Schkuhr. Boggy woods and swamps, occasional; West Newbury, Ipswich, Stoneham, Medford, Beaver Brook Reservation, Woburn, Wellesley, Dover, Hingham.

C. BRUNNEA Thunb. North Salem, made land, a patch six or eight feet across (*J. H. Sears*, Sept. 23, 1905). An Asiatic species, specimen in Gray Herb.

C. brunnescens Poir. Open woods; Gloucester, Brookline, Framingham, Norwood, Brockton; north side of Bear Hill, Middlesex

Fells [Stoneham] according to Deane, Fl. Metrop. Park Comm. 95, 1896 (as *C. canescens* L., var. *vulgaris* Bailey).

C. bullata Schkuhr. Wet meadows and swamps; Tewksbury, Lexington, Cambridge, Sherborn, Dedham.

C. bullata Schkuhr., var. **Greenii** (Boeckl.) Fernald. Very common throughout.

C. bullata Schkuhr., var. **Greenii** (Boeckl.) Fernald × **lupulina** Muhl. Small pond, Medford woods, and dried ponds (*Wm. Boott*, July 31, 1870). Specimen in Gray Herb.

C. bullata Schkuhr, var. **Greenii** (Boeckl.) Fernald × **vesicaria** L. Charles River meadows, Dedham (*F. F. Forbes*, July 12, 1907).

C. bullata Schkuhr, var. **Greenii** (Boeckl.) Fernald × **vesicaria** L., var. **monile** (Tuckerm.) Fernald. Charles River meadows, Brookline water-works land near wells, Dedham (*F. F. Forbes*, July 12, 1907).

C. canescens L., var. **disjuncta** Fernald. Swamps and bogs, very common throughout. Forms transitional between this and the type have been collected by K. M. Wiegand in Natick, Needham, and Purgatory Swamp (Westwood).

C. canescens L., var. **subloliacea** Laestad. Cambridge, Niles swamp near Fresh Pond (*W. Deane*, June 27, 1898); Needham swamp in shade, wet woods at north end (*K. M. Wiegand*, June 15, 1908).

C. CARYOPHYLLEA Lat. Dry fields and pastures, occasionally in woods; Ipswich and Salem (found by Dr. Charles Pickering before 1824, according to Wm. Oakes), West Roxbury, Dedham, Westwood, Purgatory Swamp (Westwood); Swampscott, according to J. Robinson, Fl. Essex Co. 121, 1880.

C. cephaloidea Dewey. Charlestown, ex herb. Chester Dewey, no date. Specimen in Gray Herb.

C. cephalophora Muhl. Dry fields and woods; evidently common throughout, but not reported from southeastern section.

C. communis Bailey. Dry open woods; numerous stations in central portion of the district.

C. comosa Boott. Bogs and wet places, common throughout.

C. conoidea Schkuhr. Moist grassland, common.

C. Crawfordii Fernald. Andover (*A. S. Pease*, July 10, 1904); Revere and Malden (*H. A. Young*, June 21, 1879).

C. crinita Lam. Swamps and wet places, common.

C. crinita Lam., var. **gynandra** (Schwein.) Schwein. & Torr. Slightly less frequent than the typical form.

C. crinita Lam., var. **minor** Boott. Merrimac River, Dracut (*C. W. Swan*, July 20, 1882); Ayer (*W. H. Manning*, Aug. 13, 1882).

C. cristata Schwein. Boston, off Brookline Ave., large colony at this place, growing in sandy soil, filled ground (*F. F. Forbes*, July 14, 1907); Framingham, border of swamp by road, but on dry ground, a few plants (*F. F. Forbes*, July 16, 1904).

C. H. Knowlton
J. A. Cushman
Walter Deane
A. K. Harrison
Committee on Local Flora.

A PUBESCENT VARIETY OF VACCINIUM VACILLANS.

M. L. Fernald.

Mr. George L. Kirk has recently sent from Rutland, Vermont, specimens of a *Vaccinium* which has all the characteristics of the common *V. vacillans* Kalm except that its mature leaves and twigs are pubescent. In the words of Mr. Kirk: "The blueberry I find on a dry sandy hillside, growing near ledges with typical *Vaccinium vacillans* and differing from it in the slight pubescence of the under side of the leaves. It occurs only in small quantities while the ordinary species of blueberries grow in abundance in favorable localities on different parts of the same hill." Typical *V. vacillans* has the twigs and foliage quite glabrous and the pubescent extreme of the species has more than once caused some questioning among those who know it. In 1870 the same variation was collected at Rolla, Missouri, and upon the specimen sent to Dr. Gray, the collector commented: "Most like *V. vacillans* but leaves . . . .*pubescent* beneath." Others have collected the plant, and we now know it from a wide range of territory. As a variety it seems well marked and is parallel to *V. pennsylvanicum*, var. *myrtilloides* (Michx.) Fernald discussed in 1908 (Rhodora, x. 147). This extreme variation of *V. vacillans* may be called

VACCINIUM VACILLANS, var. **crinitum**, n. var., foliis subtus ramulisque pilosis.— VERMONT: in dry sand, Rutland, June 15, 1910, *G. L. Kirk* (TYPE, in Gray Herb.). NEW YORK: Niagara Falls, *Wm. Rhoades*. ONTARIO: east of Leamington, May 31, 1901, *J. Macoun*, no. 54,230. VIRGINIA: Isle of Wight County, near Franklin, June, 1893, *A. A. Heller*, no. 993; near Luray, alt. 3000 ft., August 10, 1901, *Mr. & Mrs. E. S. Steele*, no. 66. TENNESSEE: Lookout Mountain, April 19, 1906, *J. R. Churchill*. MISSOURI: Rolla, August, 1870, collector unknown; rocky hills, St. Louis County, May, June, 1879, *H. Eggert*.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

A COMMENT ON THE USE OF THE TERM LABRADOR IN NATURAL HISTORY.— Professor M. L. Fernald in his most valuable paper in the July RHODORA says on page 120 that for the sake of "clearness of record" he restricts the term "Labrador" to the narrow eastern coastal strip belonging to Newfoundland. As the term "Labrador" is so often used for the whole Labrador Peninsula — a distinct geographical region east and north of a line drawn from the foot of James Bay to a point where the 50th parallel strikes the coast — it seems to me of the utmost importance for the sake of "clearness of record" that the term "Newfoundland Labrador" should be used where the eastern coastal strip alone is referred to. "Ungava Labrador" and "Canadian Labrador" are also perfectly distinctive terms. The term just given for the last named region in the Labrador Peninsula is to be preferred to "Saguenay County, Quebec," for that County extends some distance to the south of the boundary of the Labrador Peninsula, and Professor Fernald admits that the County is too large for the ready localization of a given point.

It is to be noted that zoologists generally include the whole peninsula when they speak of Labrador. For example in Dr. Grenfell's book on Labrador the lists of mammals, of birds, of mollusks, of crustacea and of insects all include the whole peninsula. The map of the whole peninsula in this book is labelled in the list of illustrations "Map of Labrador," while the eastern coastal strip is labelled on the map itself "Dependency of Newfoundland." It is to be remembered that Audubon's famous trip to Labrador was entirely outside of Newfoundland Labrador, and that the "Lure of the Labrador Wild" that brought poor Hubbard to his death was in the Ungava district.

To many, therefore, the term "Labrador" means the whole of the peninsula, so for the sake of clearness of record and the avoidance of ambiguity, I hope that botanists will not insist on restricting the name "Labrador" to that small part of the peninsula that belongs to Newfoundland.— CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., Boston.

AN ADDITION TO THE DESCRIPTION OF STREPTOPUS LONGIPES FERNALD.— During the season of 1911, in the course of work on the biological survey of Michigan in Cheboygan County, excellent opportunity was presented for studying the status of *Streptopus roseus* and *Streptopus longipes*. *Streptopus amplexifolius* was present in the region but there was never any question of its specific identity. It was a characteristic species of the cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) bogs. In the case of the plants growing in the hardwood association, one was very often at a loss to determine whether the individual was *S. roseus* or *S. longipes* by the rootstock characters of delimitation. The length, thickness, branching and abundance of roots varied to both extremes with the variation in the character of the soil from good hardwood land to pine land soil. For a while it was doubted whether there were two distinct species or only one. Fructification settled the doubt conclusively in favor of two species. *Streptopus amplexifolius* and *Streptopus roseus* have more or less globose fruit which is circular in cross-section, while the fruit of *Streptopus longipes*, though subglobose in general shape is triangular in cross-section with very obtuse angles.

Accordingly *Streptopus longipes* has demonstrated its specific validity and to its description should be added the words: fruit subglobose, trigonous in cross-section with obtuse angles.— FRANK C. GATES, University of Michigan.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERMONT BOTANICAL CLUB was held July 6 and 7, 1911, in conjunction with the Vermont Bird Club with headquarters at Brandon.

The first day's trip was to Mt. Horrid in Rochester. On the way the yellow bedstraw, *Galium verum*, *Stellaria uliginosa* and the balm of Gilead, *Populus candicans* were collected. Those who climbed the mountain were rewarded by seeing the rare roseroot, *Sedum roseum*, in the only known station in the state. Other rare plants growing there are *Woodsia glabella, Polystichum Braunii, Carex scirpoidea, Saxifraga Aizoon,* three-toothed cinquefoil, *Potentilla tridentata, Juncus trifidus, Solidago Randii* and *S. Cutleri, Betula alba* var. *cordifolia* and a mountain ash with characters of both *Pyrus americana* and *P. sitchensis.* The business meeting was held in the evening at the Brandon Inn and twelve new members were elected.

The second day was spent in a drive to Silver Lake and back by Lake Dunmore. Near the former lake the road ran through a beautiful glen full of fine specimens of Goldie's fern, *Aspidium Goldianum* with a little *Asplenium angustifolium,* and in other woods near by was a profusion of *Corallorrhiza maculata.* Lunch was eaten on top of a mountain between the two lakes, from which, although it was of no great height, a splendid view of the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain was obtained. Silver Lake lies one hundred feet higher than Lake Dunmore and the stream that connects the two comes down in a series of cascades and the beautiful Llana Falls, which were visited.

About thirty-five members of both clubs were in attendance and although the weather was very hot the meeting was a successful and enjoyable one, and thanks are due to Mr. D. L. Dutton, the local member of the committee, who did so much to make it a success.—Nellie F. Flynn, Burlington, Vermont.

NOTES ON THE GENUS CIRSIUM.

B. L. Robinson.

In the nearly related genera *Cirsium, Cnicus,* and *Carduus,* groups which have been subjected by various authors to widely different limitation, the specific nomenclature has naturally become much involved. In attempting to reorganize the material of these genera in the Gray Herbarium and to bring the naming into harmony with recent ideas of classification and nomenclature, I note with regret that an unfortunate error was made in the seventh edition of Gray's Manual (p. 857). Our Atlantic American yellow thistle appears there under the name *Cirsium spinosissimum* (Walt.) Scop., a binomial of mixed authority and not applicable to the plant in question. Just how this slip occurred cannot now be ascertained. It may be said in extenuation that during the rather brief interval between the publication of the International Rules of Nomenclature in 1906 and the beginning of presswork on the Manual in 1907 it was necessary for the editors to re-examine some thousands of botanical names, already in the manuscript, and to revise them in accordance with a new series of rules. It is therefore not remarkable that in a group where synonymy is especially complicated *Carduus spinosissimus* Walt. was confused with the specific homonym *Cirsium spinosissimum* Scop. Had time permitted a more careful study of the literature involved, it would have been evident that *Cirsium spinosissimum* Scop. was founded upon *Cnicus spinosissimus* L., a distinct species of central Europe.

There being this valid and earlier specific homonym, *Cirsium spinosissimum* (L.) Scop. Fl. Carn. ed. 2, ii. 129 (1772), it is clear that the specific name used by Walter in his *Carduus spinosissimus* (1788) cannot be revived to replace *Cirsium horridulum* Michx. Fl. Bor. Am. ii. 90 (1803). Our common yellow-flowered thistle should therefore be called, as formerly, *Cirsium horridulum* Michx., a fact duly recognized by the recent *Cirsium* specialist Petrak, Bot. Tidsk. xxxi. 58 (1911).

It is hoped that users of the Manual will note this correction, so that the unfortunate error may not lead to further confusion.

As the name *Carduus spinosissimus* Walt. has of late been pretty generally adopted by those who employ the American rules of nomenclature, it may be worth while to call attention to the fact that this name seems to be invalidated under the Madison amendments of the Rochester Code, since there is clearly an earlier congeneric homonym in *Cnicus spinosissimus* L. I am not sure whether these Madison amendments are now considered valid, but in any event I fail to see how *Carduus spinosissimus* Walt. can be employed in the same work with *Chrysopsis pilosa* (Walt.) Britton and *Chrysopsis Nuttallii* Britton,— names illustrating a parallel case inversely treated.

While speaking of the genus *Cirsium* I may here record the following transfers, which it has seemed necessary to employ in the rearrangement and labelling of material in the Gray Herbarium.

Cirsium americanum (Gray), comb. nov. *Echenais carlinoides*, var. *nutans* Gray, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1863, p. 69, not DC. *Cnicus carlinoides*, var. *americanus* Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. x. 48 (1874). *Cnicus americanus* Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. xix. 56 (1883).

Cirsium Eatoni (Gray), comb. nov. *Cirsium eriocephalum,* var. *leiocephalum* D. C. Eaton in Wats. Bot. King Exp. 196 (1871). *Cirsium foliosum* D. C. Eaton, l. c. 194 (in part), not DC. *Cirsium Drummondii* D. C. Eaton, l. c. 195 (in part), not Torr. & Gray. *Carduus leiocephalus* (D. C. Eaton) Heller, Cat. N. A. Pl. 7 (1898).

Cirsium plattense (Rydb.) Fernald in herb. *Carduus plattensis* Rydb. Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. iii. 167, t. 2 (1895).

ANTHYLLIS VULNERARIA AT CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT.— I am glad to record the occurrence of *Anthyllis Vulneraria* L. (Kidney Vetch) along a roadside in the town of Cromwell, Connecticut. It was first noticed on June 20, 1910, and again on June 10, 1911. The plant is decidedly rare in America and its presence in this locality is due, no doubt, to the neighborhood of the extensive greenhouses of Mr. A. N. Pierson, who is a large importer of plants and bulbs. Often at the close of the season the old potting soil is scattered on the land. There are several roots of the *Anthyllis* and it is hoped that it will continue to thrive in this locality.— FLORENCE C. HUBBARD, Cromwell, Connecticut.

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